

Polypodium aureum in Florida and Georgia

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Mr. James Hardin and I on 10 October, 1952, botanized in Glynn County, Georgia, on a very small island in the salt marsh along Little Satilla River about 4.5 miles west of the center of Colonels Island. We were looking for plant material in connection with extensive poisonous plant studies which were in progress. The common trees on the island were *Quercus virginiana*, *Sabal palmetto*, *Juniperus virginiana*, and *Ilex vomitoria*. Growing from among the leaf bases of a *Sabal palmetto* we saw a large plant of *Polypodium aureum*. After removing some of the lower persistent leaf bases with an axe Mr. Hardin was able to climb the tree and obtain some specimens (*Duncan 14425 and Hardin*), one of which is deposited in the University of Georgia Herbarium.

Neither of us had seen this fern outside of Florida. Also, literature did not reveal a record of this fern from Georgia, McVaugh and Pyron (1951) not including it and Small (1938) reporting the species in the United States from Peninsular Florida and the Florida Keys. Correll (1938) reports the species only as far north as Duval County, Florida. This is not many miles south of Georgia.

Fortified with the above data it seemed to me that this fern had never before been seen in Georgia and I decided to determine as accurately as possible its known distribution. I did not know that Mrs. M. W. Diddell had seen this species in Chatham County, Georgia, in the spring of 1951—her published record of it did not appear until late in 1953 (Diddell, 1953). Since this species is not easily confused with any other one in the Southeast and the records of it, therefore, are easily ob-

tainable, information concerning collections of *P. aureum* was solicited from persons at various herbaria. This assistance is much appreciated and will be most happily repaid with provision of whatever data may be requested from the University of Georgia Herbarium.

A map (Fig. 1) has been prepared to show the distri-

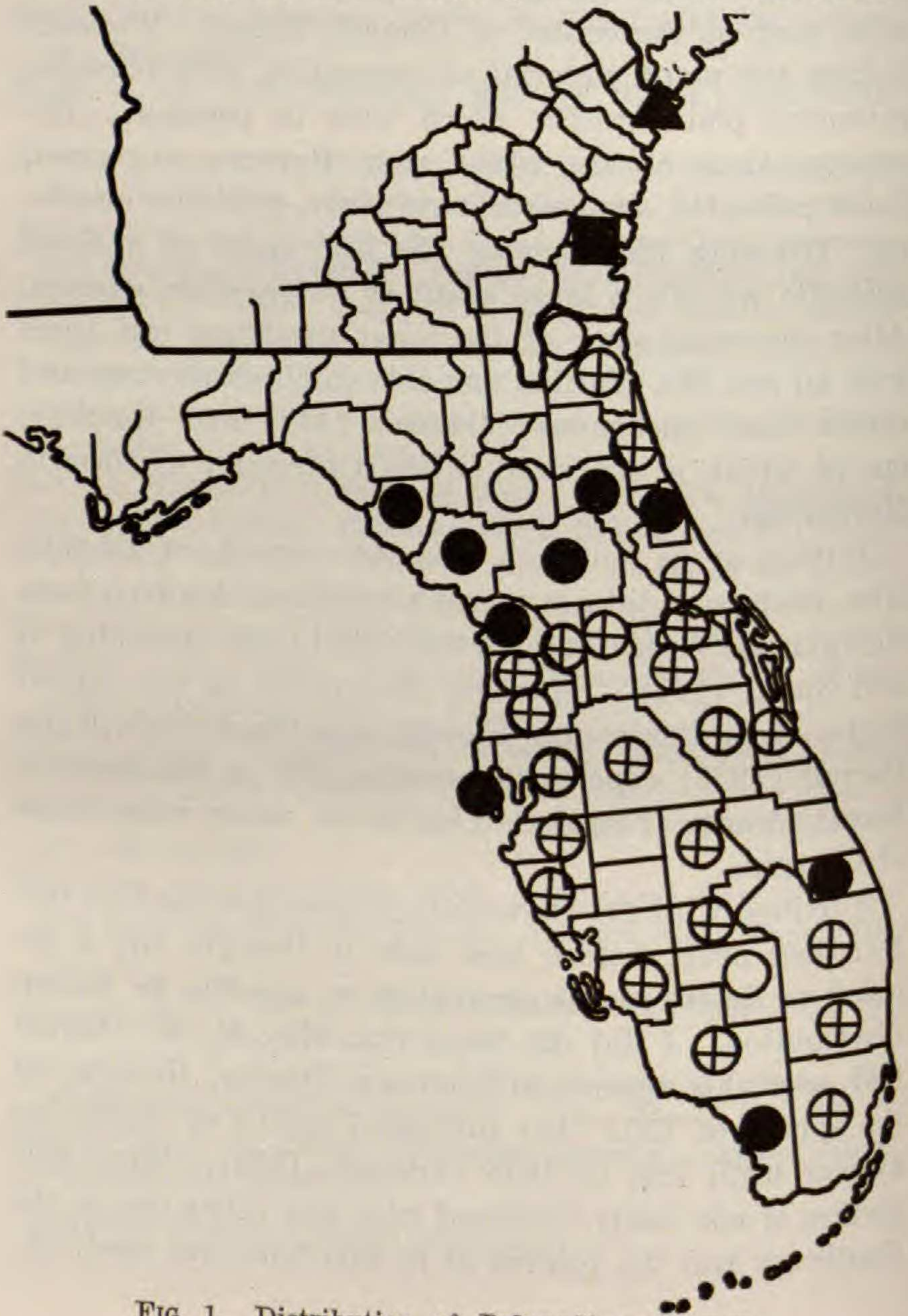


FIG. 1. Distribution of *Polypodium aureum*.

bution data which have been accumulated for *P. aureum*. The circles with cross lines indicate the counties reported for this fern by Correll (1938) and the large dots those counties for which one or more additional herbarium specimens have been located. The empty circles represented localities where this fern has been observed by Mr. James D. Blake. This information was conveyed to me in a letter of 27 June, 1953, from him at the Department of Botany, Florida State University, where he was a graduate student, and is presented here with his approval. Although the palm tree seems to be a favorite habitat for the fern, it has been reported on other tree species and even on rock outcrops. Mr. Hardin told me of seeing this fern in soil of an old spoils bank of a phosphate pit in Polk County, Florida. Mr. Blake writes that the Nassau County record is based on a large specimen seen in the fork of *Nyssa aquatica* L. This seems odd to him since in a very large, nearby colony of *Sabal palmetto* not a single *P. aureum* is to be seen.

The triangle on the map indicates the location of Mrs. Diddell's record for *P. aureum* in Chatham County, Georgia. The distributional data are completed by the square locating the Glynn County collection made by Mr. Hardin and myself.¹

Now that several ferns generally found in Florida only (e.g., *Polypodium aureum*, *Salvinia rotundifolia*, *Vittaria lineata*, *Psilotum nudum*, *Ophioglossum petiolatum*) have been reported north of Florida it is interesting to speculate whether or not additional searches will locate in south Georgia and/or South Carolina stations for other species which are not now known north of Florida. Only time and effort will bring an answer to this.

¹ Mr. Hardin informs me that the Glynn County station has just been destroyed by a new highway.—Ed.

LITERATURE CITED

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- McVAUGH, ROGERS and J. PYRON. 1951. *Ferns of Georgia*. 195 pp. Univ. of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia.
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Shorter Note

NEW STATIONS FOR *DRYOPTERIS SETIGERA*.—During the past year, four new localities for *Dryopteris setigera* (Blume) Kuntze have been found in Alabama. On August 9, 1953, Dr. R. L. Chermock, Associate Professor of Zoology at the University of Alabama, collected specimens of the fern near Brooklyn in Conecuh County near Saunders' Cave. On August 23, 1953, Dr. Chermock again collected the fern near Tuskegee in Macon County. Mr. Riley Lumpkin, a graduate student at the University of Alabama, collected the plant along U. S. Highway 80 one mile south of the Lee County line in Russell County on September 10, 1953. On April 24, 1954, the writer found a new station for the fern in Conecuh County approximately one and three-fourths miles southwest of Evergreen. The latter station is approximately three-fourths mile southwest of the original station for Alabama reported by the author.¹

Previous to this report, the distribution of the fern as known to occur in the United States was Hernando, Highlands, Manatee, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Saint Johns, Seminole, and Volusia Counties of North Central Florida; Conecuh County, Alabama; and Newton County, Texas, the latter being reported by Dr. D. S. Correll.² Marion County may be added in the distribu-

¹ This JOURNAL 39: 124. 1949.

² This JOURNAL 41: 124. 1951.